through Co-operative Stores, Mobile Stores, Kendriya Bhandar etc. at reasonable prices. Essential Commodities like Pulses and Edible oils are being imported in desired quantities to augment their supplies in the domestic market.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present to make changes in the Essential Commodities Act. The Act of 1995 was amended in 1981 to provide for stringent action against hoarders etc. At present, offences under the amendment of 1981, make the offences both cognizable and non-bailable. These provisions are considered deterrent enough against any attempt by traders/hoarders either to hike prices of essential commodities excessively or to manipulate supplies etc.

STATEMENT

Trend in the wholesale price indices of selected essential commodities during the last 3 years.

	Percentage Variation		
	June.94 / June.93	June.95 / June.94	June.96 / June.95
Sugar	23.6	-9.9	5.3
Rice	14.9	9.3	7.2
Gram	31.0	-23.2	9.6
Arhar	13.2	59.2	-0.3
Ghee	13.3	27.3	-0.5
Washing Soap	2.9	15.6	7.1
Tea	-13.0	13.5	7.1

International Film Festival

971. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of International Film Festivals organised in New Delhi during the last three years, year-wise and date-wise;

(b) The expenditure incurred and the profit earned thereon, year-wise;

(c) whether any shortcomings have been noticed during the festivals;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(e) whether the Government propose to hand over the film festivals to the film industry, and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) During the last three years, one International Film Festival of India (IFFI) namely the Twenty-seventh IFFI was organised in New Delhi from 10-20th January, 1996.

(b) A budget of Rs.215 lakhs was sanctioned. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi also contributed a sum of Rs.25 lakhs for this festival. The IFFI is a promotional activity and expenditure incurred thereon is not aimed at earning profits.

(c) and (d) No serious shortcoming was noticed during the festival.

(e) and (f) There is a proposal for handing over the task of organising the International Film Festival of India to the Film Industry. However, no decision has been taken in this regard.

[English]

Waiting List for Telephones

972. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people in waiting list for telephone connections in Rajasthan at present district-wise;

(b) the number of applicants proposed to be provided telephone connections during the current financial year, district-wise;

(c) the number of persons provided with telephone connections during 1995, district-wise;

(d) the scheme proposed to be implemented by the department to improve telephone services; and

(e) the amount allocated for development and expansion of telephone facilities in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The number of people in waiting list for telephone connections, district-wise at present is given in enclosed statement -I Column 'A'.

(b) The district-wise number of applicants proposed to be provided telephone connection during the current financial year is given in the enclosed statement-I column 'B'.

(c) The district-wise number persons provided with telephone connections during 1995-96 is given in the enclosed statement-II column 'C'.

(d) The scheme proposed to be implemented by the Department to improve telephone services are given in statement-III enclosed.

(e) The amount allocated for development and expansion of telephone facilities in the State for 1995-96 was Rs.318.28 crores.